

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF CHESHAM

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REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH  
INSPECTOR

for the year 1963



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1963.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Chairman of the Council: Councillor F. M. Harries, J.P.

HEALTH, PLANNING AND ESTATES COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor A. H. J. Baines, M.A.

Councillor F. O. Bell, O.B.E., B.A.	Councillor Mrs. V. C. Mann
Councillor Mrs. F. K. Brandon, C.C.	Councillor W. T. Moulder, C.C., J.P.
Councillor Mrs. F. A. Clarke	Councillor A. D. Scollay
Councillor Mrs. K. L. Harries	Councillor J. J. T. Roberts
Councillor F. M. Harries, J.P.	Councillor W. P. Scott.

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

R. E. Atkinson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is also Medical Officer of Health for Amersham Rural District Council, and Beaconsfield Urban District Council.

Deputy Divisional School Medical Officer,  
and Assistant County Medical Officer.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

Ethel G. Jennings, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. B.A.O., D.P.H.  
appointed 1 10.63.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

L. D. Saturley, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., A.I.Hsg.

Other Appointment: Housing Manager to  
Chesham Urban District Council.

Additional Public Health Inspector.

A.P.Wells, Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Rodent Officer

A. Palmer.

Clerk

J. C. How

Shorthand Typist

Mrs. V. A. Hammond, resigned 22.9.63.

Mrs. W. Stevens, appointed 18.11.63.

Junior Clerk

Miss A. Sherwood, resigned 22.2.63

Miss M. Baldwin, appointed 1.4.63.



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHESHAM

Tel: Chesham 2622.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Chesham,  
Bucks.

August, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Chesham Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's district for the year 1963.

The health of the district, as reflected by the vital statistics and notifications of infectious diseases, has been very satisfactory. Comment is made in the body of the Report on an outbreak of Sonne Dysentery. The occurrence illustrated how vulnerable the community is to an infection of this nature which might have been of a far more serious character.

It is again a great pleasure to record my appreciation of the co-operation and help given by the Public Health Inspectors and other members of the Public Health Department throughout the year and in the preparation of this report.

Close and friendly relations have been maintained between the Department and all other branches of the Health and Welfare Services.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. E. ATKINSON

Medical Officer of Health.





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<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	4	-	4

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	9.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	9.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	0.0
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks) per 1,000 total live births	6.9
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live births	6.9
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	20.3

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal deaths	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.	0.0

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	71	78	149
Death Rate per 1,000 population			8.1
* Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability factor 1.15)			9.3

\* NOTE

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

\* NOTE

The crude birth rate is again the highest of any district in the County.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 50% of the deaths. Deaths from malignant conditions (29) accounted for approximately 19% of the total and those from pneumonia and bronchitis (25) for approximately 17%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	7	7
2. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	3	6
3. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
4. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	2	2
5. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	7	12
6. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	11	14
7. Coronary disease, angina	23	11	34
8. Hypertension with heart disease	1	4	5
9. Other heart disease	5	10	15
10. Other circulatory disease	3	4	7
11. Pneumonia	3	7	10
12. Bronchitis	11	4	15
13. Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
14. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
15. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
16. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
17. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-	1
18. Congenital malformations	2	-	2
19. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	2	5
20. All other accidents	2	1	3
21. Suicide	2	-	2
	<u>71</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>149</u>

## COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

## POPULATIONS, BIRTH AND MORTALITY RATES FOR THE YEAR 1963.

District	Popu- lation Census 1961	Reg. Gen. Estimated Population Mid-1963	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Tuberculosis Death Rate per 1,000 Population.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Births	Maternal Mortality per 1,000 Live and Still-Births.
<b>URBAN</b>								
Aylesbury	27,923	31,030	23.3 (724)	10.0 (311)	0.097 (3)	13.8 (10)	9.7 (7)	-
Beaconsfield	10,013	10,540	17.6 (185)	8.6 (91)	-	27.0 (5)	21.6 (4)	-
Bletchley	17,095	19,390	23.3 (452)	7.1 (137)	0.052 (1)	19.9 (9)	13.3 (6)	-
Buckingham	4,379	4,530	19.0 (86)	7.5 (34)	-	23.3 (2)	11.6 (1)	-
Chesham	16,297	18,310	23.9 (437)	8.1 (149)	-	9.2 (4)	6.9 (3)	-
Eton	3,894	5,110	12.7 (65)	9.4 (48)	-	46.2 (3)	30.8 (2)	-
High Wycombe	49,981	53,440	21.4 (1145)	8.4 (451)	-	17.5 (20)	14.0 (16)	0.86
Linslade	4,139	4,340	21.9 (95)	11.3 (49)	-	10.5 (1)	10.5 (1)	-
Marlow	8,724	9,210	21.2 (195)	11.1 (102)	0.109 (1)	30.8 (6)	25.6 (5)	-
Newport Pagnell	4,743	5,000	18.0 (90)	20.6 (103)	-	11.1 (1)	11.1 (1)	-
Slough	80,781	84,210	20.1 (1 694)	8.9 (746)	0.036 (3)	18.3 (31)	13.0 (22)	-
Wolverton	13,113	12,970	15.4 (200)	14.6 (189)	-	15.0 (3)	5.0 (1)	-
<b>TOTAL URBAN</b>	241,082	258,080	20.8 (5,368)	9.3 (2,410)	0.031 (8)	17.7 (95)	12.9 (69)	0.18 (1)
<b>RURAL</b>								
Amersham	56,005	58,170	17.9 (1,044)	10.4 (603)	0.034 (2)	18.2 (19)	15.3 (16)	-
Aylesbury	33,336	34,690	18.5 (643)	12.2 (422)	0.058 (2)	14.0 (9)	7.8 (5)	1.54
Buckingham	8,497	9,440	15.5 (146)	10.0 (94)	-	13.7 (2)	13.7 (2)	-
Eton	66,932	69,330	17.2 (1,191)	8.8 (613)	0.029 (2)	16.8 (20)	12.6 (15)	-
Newport Pagnell	14,107	14,270	15.7 (224)	13.6 (194)	-	8.9 (2)	8.9 (2)	-
Wing	9,083	9,110	15.1 (138)	13.4 (122)	-	29.0 (4)	29.0 (4)	-
Winslow	7,939	8,200	18.4 (151)	19.4 (159)	0.122 (1)	39.7 (6)	26.5 (4)	-
Wycombe	51,252	54,630	18.5 (1,010)	9.0 (494)	0.073 (4)	17.8 (18)	10.9 (11)	0.97
<b>TOTAL RURAL</b>	247,151	257,840	17.6 (4,547)	10.5 (2,701)	0.043 (11)	17.6 (80)	13.0 (59)	0.43 (2)
<b>TOTAL COUNTY</b>	488,233	515,920	19.2 (9,915)	9.9 (5,111)	0.037 (19)	17.7 (175)	12.9 (128)	0.30 (3)
<b>ENGLAND AND WALES</b>	46,071,604	47,022,700	18.2	12.2	0.063	20.9	14.2	0.28

**NOTE:** In view of the small numbers on which some of the rates quoted are based, the actual numbers are given in parenthesis for the purpose of clearer comparison.



## S E C T I O N II

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### (1) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Chesham Urban District is situated within the area of the High Wycombe & District Management Committee of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

Hospitals available for the District are as follows:-

Tuberculosis	- Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium, Peppard Common
General	- Chesham Cottage Hospital
	- Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury.
	- Amersham General Hospital
	- Tindal General Hospital, Aylesbury
	- Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, Aylesbury
	- War Memorial Hospital, High Wycombe
	- Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Hospital
Infectious Diseases	- Aylesbury Isolation Hospital
Mental	- St. John's Hospital, Stone
Maternity	- The Stone Maternity Home, Chalfont St.Giles

#### (2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological laboratory facilities are provided by the Public Health Laboratories situated at Oxford and Luton.

Samples of water for chemical analysis are sent to the Public Analyst for Southwark Borough Council.

The Public Analyst for Buckinghamshire is Mr. Eric Voelcker, A.R.C.S., F.R.I.C., Analytical Laboratory, Stuart House, 1, Tudor Street, London, E.C.4.

#### (3) AMBULANCE SERVICE

This service is provided by the County Council, the Chesham Urban District being covered by the sub-station at Amersham from 7.0 a.m. - 11.0 p.m. The main station at High Wycombe provides 24-hour cover to the whole of the area.

#### (4) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by the undermentioned nurses:-

<u>Districts Served.</u>	<u>Name, Address and Qualifications of Nurses.</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Chesham (except The Vale)	Miss M.E.Marston, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. Miss P.Sigsworth, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N. 29 and 25 Penn Avenue, Chesham. Miss J. L. Rose, S.R.N. 15, Highmoor, Amersham.	Chesham 2319 Chesham 2842   Amersham 2572
	*Mrs. G. Hoskins, S.R.N., S.C.M., † Q.N. 33, Woodside Avenue, Chesham Bois.	

\* Part-time staff

† not practising as a midwife.

(5) CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

		<u>Session.</u>	<u>M.O. Attends</u>
Chesham	School Clinic, Germain Street.	2.0 p.m. each Friday	2nd & 4th Fri- day each month
Chesham	Community Hall, Pond Park Windsor Road.	2nd & 4th Monday 2.0 p.m. each month.	Each session

(6) CHESHAM OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE COMMITTEE

The Temperance Hall, leased from the Chesham Council and opened in January, 1961, has been the centre of increased activity by the Committee during the year. The Hall is open daily between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. for the use of the elderly people of the town. Billiards, television and games are available and light refreshments are served. Members of the Committee and other volunteers staff the Hall during these sessions at which the average attendance has been 50.

A Luncheon Club is now operating twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays. The price of lunch is 1s. 3d. The average attendance is 25 per session although the Club can take up to 40 per session.

Chiropody and hairdressing sessions take place weekly, and the Hall is also used by the "Darby and Joan" Club, the Old Age Pensioners Federation and the Wednesday Club. The attendance at the hairdressing sessions averages eight each week and this activity is self-supporting. (Free perms are now arranged with a local hairdresser.) An average of 12-14 come for chiropody treatment each week.

The Temperance Hall now stores sheets, blankets, wireless sets and other comforts for distribution in distress and will store small stocks of coal.

A "Busy-Bees" Club has now been formed at which a very large number of handicrafts are taught. Materials are obtainable usually at cost price and many old ladies (and a few men) are now busily making things for a bazaar to be held in October. The organiser also visits old ladies in their homes to teach handicrafts to the housebound.

Visiting - This service is now well organised. Some 300 old folks are visited regularly each week. A total of 2,500 names are now on the register - of this total some 450 to 500 are receiving one or more of the services and another 250 are club members.

The Hall has been sub-let for 50 weeks during the year at a weekly rent of £8. The balance in hand is about £500.

Since the formation of the Committee in 1958, the hard work of many voluntary workers and the very generous support of local organisations and individuals has been successful in providing an increasing number of elderly people of the district with comfort, companionship and interests not previously available. The activities of the Committee are now well known and appreciated.

(7) FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION

A clinic is held in the Outpatients' Department at Amersham Hospital every Tuesday and Thursday at 6.30 p.m., public holidays excepted.

In the Report of the Association for 1963, Dr. Thompson says that the major development in the type of advice offered by the Clinic has been the increase in the number of patients requesting oral contraceptives. In the regular twice-weekly sessions, the average attendance had been just over 17 patients per session. Mr. Champ, the President, had been most helpful and energetic in pursuing his inquiries for suitable facilities for the examination of cervical smears.

(8) MEDICAL COMFORTS DEPOT

The Medical Comforts Depot situated at the rear of 122, High Street, Chesham, and organised by the Chesham Nursing Division of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade, has again rendered valuable service to the sick not only in this area but throughout the county.

Close liaison is maintained with General Practitioners, Hospital and County Almoners, Health Visitors and District Nurse/Midwives. During the year the depot sent out 3,794 articles, helping over 621 invalids and 265 maternity cases nursed at home.

The total number of medical comforts supplied was slightly less than in 1962, due to a smaller number of maternity cases. The number of invalids supplied actually increased. An average of 50 fresh cases seek help from the depot each month. Two items of equipment which are in great demand are the alternating pressure air beds - much appreciated by many terminal cancer cases nursed at home - and the modern light-weight wheel chairs.

Miss M. F. Wheeler, the Officer in charge of the depot, thanks all who by their gifts, work and interest make it possible for the depot to run.

S E C T I O N    I I I

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948-1951

Section 47.

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a court of summary jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

Section 50.

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.



PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(1) NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The table below gives the cases of infectious disease notified during the year:-

DISEASE	Cases Notified	
	1962	1963
Measles	8	274
Tuberculosis	3	8*
Sonne Dysentery	-	1

\* The eight cases notified included five of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Sonne Dysentery Outbreak

Although only one case was officially notified, there was in fact an extensive outbreak of Sonne Dysentery in the Town from May to July. 80 suspects were screened. 17% of the specimens taken from them were positive to the Sonne Dysentery organism in the first instance.

Dysentery is a person-to-person infection rather than food or waterborne, in the bacterial food poisoning sense, and the inevitable conclusion is that it is really a sanitary problem. The answer would seem to be a vigorous improvement in the design of sanitary apparatus and in personal habits and training in all places where groups of people share communal facilities. In this respect, as the most susceptible age group is in children under 10, schools are an obvious starting point.

In Chesham, the opportunity was taken to improve some of the sanitary arrangements in certain of the primary schools where the majority of the cases occurred. All families affected were given advice on personal hygiene with particular emphasis on the washing of hands.

If a disease carrying relatively little risk can be easily spread by personal contact, so also could an infection of much greater virulence, such as the typhoid group, be spread by the same route in suitable circumstances.

(2) IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

(a) Smallpox Vaccination

The number of children vaccinated against Smallpox in the various age groups is shewn in the table below:-

	0-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 and over	TOTAL
Smallpox Vaccination	38	43	4	8	19	1	7	.	120
Re-vaccination							5		5
	38	43	4	8	19	1	12	-	125

The Ministry of Health now recommends that smallpox vaccination in children be carried out between the ages of one and two years. The incidence of side-effects from vaccination is known to be less in this age group.

(b) Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

The use of Triple Antigens - containing pertussis, diphtheria and tetanus prophylactic - continued during 1963. The following table gives the numbers of children who were protected against these diseases.

Year of Birth	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	15 & over	TOTAL
Primary Diph					1	1				1				3
Primary Diph/ tet.			4			4								8
Primary Diph/ W.C														-
Primary Triple	91	204	35	3		1								334
Primary Quadrilin	1	1												2
Renewals		1	3	3	16	210	50	7	3	42	2	1		338
Primary W/C						1								1
Primary Tetanus				5	2	6	3							16
	92	206	42	11	19	223	53	7	3	43	2	1		702

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis with Sabin oral vaccine is now given at monthly intervals starting at the age of six months, followed by immunisation with triple antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus) which usually starts at the 9th or 10th month.

(c) Poliomyelitis

No separate figures for Poliomyelitis vaccination are available for the district.

(d) Tuberculosis

B.C.G. Vaccination at the age of 13 years is provided by the School Health Service. In the Amersham and Chesham Division it is pleasing to note that once again there was an excellent response from parents.

The B.C.G. vaccination is preceded by a tuberculin test which indicates whether the individual has in the past been infected with tuberculosis. Most of these infections are very mild and cause no definite symptoms. The number reacting to this test is a measure of the past exposure of these children to Tuberculosis, and in this context it is interesting to note the following figures:-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Tuberculin Positive</u>
1957	19.2%
1958	14.1%
1959	13.0%
1960	10.5%
1961	6.5%
1962	4.4%
1963	4.0%

Those children who react strongly to this test are later seen by the County Chest Physician for further investigation.

SECTION V.

SANITARY INSPECTION

(1) VISITS BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

<u>Housing Inspections:</u>	<u>1963.</u>
Number of houses inspected under Public Health Acts ... ..	60
Revisits made to houses under Public Health Acts ... ..	192
Number of houses inspected under Housing Acts ... ..	8
Revisits made to houses under Housing Acts ... ..	47
Visits to houses under Rent Acts ... ..	-
Miscellaneous visits to houses ... ..	35
Visits to houses in connection with Improvement Grants ...	172

Inspection of Food and Food Premises:

Visits to Butchers' Shops ... ..	26
Visits to Fish Shops... ..	4
Visits to Grocers' Shops ... ..	51
Visits to Ice-Cream Premises... ..	9
Visits to Food Manufacturing Premises ... ..	11
Visits to Catering Premises ... ..	57
Visits to Bakehouses and Confectioners ... ..	8
Visits to Dairies ... ..	2

Infectious Disease, Rodent and Vermin Control:

Number of houses inspected for vermin ... ..	11
Number of rooms disinfested ... ..	11
Revisits ... ..	3
Visits where Infectious Disease has occurred ... ..	101
Number of rooms disinfested... ..	-
Visits in connection with Rodent Control... ..	86

Other Visits:-

Visits to Knacker's Yard ... ..	5
Visits and inspections of Factories ... ..	19
Visits in connection with Water Supply ... ..	107
Interviews ... ..	343
Miscellaneous Visits .. ...	310
Visits & Observations re Atmospheric Pollution... ..	14

Complaints:

Complaints reported to the Public Health Department ... ..	120
(excluding complaints of rats and mice which are dealt with elsewhere in the Report).	

(2) VERMINOUS PREMISES

As in previous years, numerous requests were made to the Public Health Department for help in dealing with insect pests. Suitable advice was given in every case and where necessary, treatments were carried out by the staff of the Department.

No reports of bed bugs or fleas were received but infestations of a variety of other insect pests were investigated and treated at 104 separate premises during the year. This work included the destruction of 71 wasps' nests.

Insecticides containing pyrethrum were the most widely used in this work.



(3) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961. ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES BY INFORMAL ACTION

As a result of the investigation of complaints and during the course of routine work a wide variety of sanitary defects and nuisances are met and dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Acts. In over 90% of the cases remedies are effected following written or verbal requests made by the Public Health Inspectors, without resort to statutory procedure.

The defects for which this informal action was taken during 1963 are summarised below:-

DEFECT	NUMBER OF CASES
Leaking roofs	12
Defective roof surface water drainage	17
Dampness in dwellings	23
Defective chimney stacks	1
Defective floors, doors and windows	17
Defective plasterwork	6
Defective sanitary accommodation	20
Defective drainage systems	5
Frozen water pipes	2
Overflowing cesspools	1
Accumulations of refuse	3
Offensive condition of disused cressbeds	2
Unsatisfactory dustbins	5
Miscellaneous defects	4

Total 118

(4) PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, 1936 & 1961 - STATUTORY NOTICES

If within a reasonable time the informal action described above fails to secure the remedy of sanitary defects or the abatement of nuisances, the matters concerned are reported to the Council's Health Committee, which authorises statutory notices to be served. The following is a statement of the Statutory Notices served and complied with during the year.

ACT AND SECTION	DETAILS	NUMBER OF NOTICES			
		Outstanding on 1.1.63.	Served	Complied with	Outstanding on 31.12.63.
Section 39 of 1936 Act	Defective drainage systems	-	2	-	2
Section 45 of 1936 Act.	Defective water closets	-	3	1	2
Section 93 of 1936 Act.	Dampness in dwellings.	-	2	-	2
	TOTALS	-	7	1	6

(5) NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960.

As a result of the publicity given to the new powers conferred on Local Authorities by this Act, an increasing number of complaints concerning noise and vibration are being received from the public. During the year the Public Health Inspectors were called upon to investigate nine alleged noise nuisances attributable to a variety of causes ranging from factory machinery to barking dogs. It was considered that the complaints were justified in six cases.

The most serious complaints have been of noise from industrial and business activities that are carried on outside normal working hours. Six causes of complaint were in this category. This type of complaint requires numerous visits by the Public Health Inspectors, many of which may have to be at weekends, evenings or at night; if the nuisance is substantiated, it is extremely difficult to suggest remedial measures which are both practicable and effective. To persons aggrieved by noise from a neighbouring factory in the night, only total abolition may be acceptable.

A definite reduction in noise from one offending factory was achieved during the year and work to reduce noise in another night-operating factory has been promised. Investigations or negotiations with responsible parties were continuing in the other cases.

SECTION VI.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1) WATER SUPPLY

(a) Public Water Supplies

Main water in the Chesham Urban District is supplied by the Council Undertaking and the Undertaking of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company and amalgamated companies. This Council's undertaking supplies about 82% of the total dwellings within the district in that part which may be conveniently described as the area of the Urban District prior to the extension of boundaries in 1934.

During the year under review the Undertakings have supplied main water that has been satisfactory both in regard to quantity and quality.

Treatment and Plumbo-Solvency of Water

The main supplies receive no treatment other than chlorination and the waters are not liable to have plumbo-solvent action.

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

Fluoridation of water supplies was discussed several times by the Public Health Committee. As the future of the Chesham water undertaking was uncertain, it was decided to take no action for the present.

Distribution of Main Supplies

The following table shows the number of dwellings and estimated population supplied from public water mains:-

	No. of Houses	No. of Caravans	Estimated Population
Internal Piped supply	6047	-	18,054
External supply	* 45	51	190

\* of the 45 houses shown as having only an external supply of water, 13 are subject to Clearance, Demolition or Closing Orders.

Adequate public water supplies were available for all parts of the District in which new dwellings were erected during the year.

Sampling of Public Water Supplies.

During the year samples have been taken from the piped water supplied by the Chesham Urban District Council and the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company.

Thirty one samples, nineteen for bacteriological examination and twelve for chemical analysis, were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory or Public Analyst. All the samples were reported to be of high chemical and bacteriological purity, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

# Chemical Analyses

The following are copies of the Analyst's Reports on the examination of samples from four different sources of mains water:-

<u>Reference No.</u>	<u>Sample collected from:</u>	<u>Water Undertaking:</u>
M.132	Community Centre, Wallington Road, Chesham.	Chesham U.D.Council.
M.119.	126, Berkeley Avenue, Chesham.	Rickmansworth & Ux-bridge Valley Water Co.
M.105	3, Rachels Way, Chesham.	-"- (Amersham Main)
M.133	6, Linington Avenue, Chesham.	-"- (Berkhampstead Main)

Sample Ref. No.:	<u>M.132.</u>	<u>M.119.</u>	<u>M.105.</u>	<u>M.133</u>
Appearance	All clear and colourless.			
Reaction (pH)	7.3	7.0	7.0	7.3
	Parts per million.			
Free Chlorine	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total Solids	364	368	360	342
Loss on Ignition	-	-	-	-
Chlorine in Chlorides	17	14	18	20
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	0.003	Nil
Nitrate Nitrogen	2.8	3.7	5.2	4.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Oxygen absorbed from perman- ganate (3 hrs. @ 98°F.)	Nil	Nil	0.08	Nil
Hardness, Temporary	235	248	250	220
Permanent	37	9	18	33
Total	272	257	268	253
Metals - Lead, Copper, Zinc.	Not found.			

## (b) Private Well Supplies

Twenty-two dwellings and three business premises in the district are dependent upon a supply of water from wells, these being mostly deep bore wells. They are known to yield an adequate supply all the year round, and the water is of high bacteriological quality. Sampling of the water is carried out from time to time and given below is a table showing the number of samples collected in 1963, together with the results of bacteriological examinations carried out:-

SAMPLING OF WELL WATER SUPPLIES				
	Number of Samples	Result of Examination		
		Satisfactory	Suspicious	Unsatisfactory
Bacteriological Examination	20	20	-	-

Four houses in Pednor Road formerly dependent upon well supplies were connected to a public water main during the year.



## (2) PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

The only Public Swimming Bath within the Urban District is controlled by the Council. The premises, situated on the Moor, comprise an open bath measuring 85' x 35' and from 3' to 5' in depth, with covered dressing accommodation and sanitary conveniences.

Mechanical filtration and chlorination plant were brought into use in 1961 as the first stage of an improvement scheme. The reconstruction of the dressing accommodation and the enlargement of the surround to the pool, together with the deepening thereof is proceeding rapidly and it is anticipated that work will be completed in time for the opening of the baths at the beginning of June of this year.

The bath is filled with unheated water from a well on the site, but the process of continuous filtration and chlorination by the 'break point' method ensures that it is attractive and safe for bathing at all times. The dosage of chlorine required for the water in use being variable, tests are made daily by the attendant to check that the concentration of chlorine is maintained at the correct level.

Eight samples of water from the bath were examined bacteriologically and found to be satisfactory.

### Paddling Pool - Lowndes Park

The pool has been painted and continues to be very popular. It is filled from the town's mains and chlorinated and changed as necessary. Three samples of water were examined bacteriologically and found to be satisfactory.

## (3) SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage of the town is on a separate system, the foul sewers discharging to the Council's Sewage Disposal Works in Latimer Road. This Works also receives sewage from the Chesham Bois area of the Amersham Rural District.

Details of the proposals for the reconstruction of the works having been approved by the Thames Conservancy, have now been submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, whose decision is awaited.

The construction of two sludge lagoons, designed to form part of the ultimate scheme of reconstruction, has been largely completed.

### Parts of the District not served by public sewer

A survey carried out in 1953/54 showed that approximately 450 dwellings were situated in areas not served by a public sewer. This number has since increased with the building of further houses in Berkeley Avenue, Botley Road and other outlying parts of the town. Most of the dwellings drain to either a sealed cesspool or to a septic tank and soakaway into chalk.

### Cesspools

Since 1954 sealed cesspools only have been permitted for new dwellings. These must have a capacity of not less than 4,000 gallons, a capacity which is adequate for the average household for at least two months. A typical cesspool in the Chesham district consists of a circular pit 13 feet deep below the level of the inlet, 8 feet in diameter, constructed in 9" brickwork and cement rendered internally with a concrete base and cover.

### Cesspool emptying.

The Council's machine emptied 311 cesspools during 1963, 285 being in the Urban District whilst the remainder were in adjoining areas.



(4) REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Household and certain Trade refuse is collected within the Urban District and disposed of by burning at the Council's Refuse Destructor in Latimer Road.

Quantities continue to increase, at a greater rate than population, due to modern methods of packaging and the increased amount of paper in use.

Some loads have had to be diverted to a controlled tip at Gerrards Cross, although these have been kept to a minimum.

Provision of Dustbins.

Since 1950 the Council has used the powers given by Section 75(3) of the Public Health Act, 1936, which provides that in lieu of requiring owners or occupiers of buildings to provide dustbins, the Local Authority may themselves undertake to provide and maintain such dustbins as may be necessary. An annual charge of 7/6d. collected with the general rate, is charged for each dustbin.

In practice where arrangements for refuse storage are unsatisfactory, the owner of the premises is given an opportunity of providing a dustbin before a Council bin is delivered.

Provision of Dustbins by the Council

Number of dustbins provided in 1963	3
Number of dustbins provided in 1950/62	208
	<hr/> 211
Number of dustbins withdrawn in 1963	4
	<hr/>
Total provided	<hr/> 207 <hr/>

Termination of Scheme

In recent years there has been an increasing number of requests from householders for the cancellation of arrangements operating under the above-mentioned powers and in June 1963 the Council decided that the scheme would be terminated on the 31st March, 1964. It was decided that bins provided before the 1st January 1960 would be left with the occupiers free of cost for the remainder of their useful life, and that bins provided since that date should be offered to householders for the sum of 7/6d.

As from the 1st April, 1964, responsibility for providing dustbins will revert to the owners or occupiers of the buildings concerned.

(5) SLUM CLEARANCE AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

Clearance Areas

The four privately-owned houses in Clearance Area No.4 in Waterside had not been demolished by the end of the year. The Council decided to hold the enforcement of the Clearance Order in abeyance pending a decision on a planning application for future development of the land.

The three remaining tenants in Clearance Area No.5 in Whitehill were re-housed during the year. The demolition of the five houses in this area which have been acquired by the Buckinghamshire County Council in connection with a road improvement scheme is planned for early 1964.

No action to declare further clearance areas was begun during the year.

### Individual Unfit Houses

As a result of action taken under the provisions of the Housing Acts, two unfit houses were closed to human habitation during the year. One unfit house which had been closed was repaired and improved by the owner. Four houses subject to demolition orders and one subject to a closing order were demolished during the year.

### Progress

It will be recollected that in 1962 the Minister of Housing and Local Government urged Local Authorities to tackle the improvement of old houses street by street and area by area, and with a view to putting this policy into action in Chesham, it had been planned to carry out surveys of all the houses in the Church Street area and in Sunnyside Road. Due to the need to give priority to other more urgent work in the Department, little progress was made in carrying out these two preliminary surveys.

Because of this situation and the additional duties resulting from new legislation, the Council decided in September, 1963, to increase the establishment of Public Health Inspectors by one. The vacancy had not been filled by the end of the year.

### (6) GRANTS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF OLD HOUSES

The Council has continued to make Discretionary and Standard Grants for the improvement of old houses and the Public Health Department is responsible for the considerable amount of administrative work attached to the operation of these schemes. The Public Health Inspectors made 172 visits during the year to advise applicants on proposals or inspect works in progress.

The tables below show the number of applications received and approved, together with the total amount of grants made for the years 1954 - 1963, inclusive. In the year under review, a total of 30 applications for both types of grant was received as against 23 in the previous year.

#### STANDARD GRANTS

	<u>1959/60</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Number of applications received.	12	7	6	16	41
Number of applications approved.	11	6	6	16	39
Number of applications withdrawn	1	1	-	-	2
Total grants payable (maximum)	£1505	£735	£800	£2220	£5,260
Number of schemes completed	8	5	5	10	28

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

	1954/1961	1962	1963	TOTAL
Number of Applications	133	17	14	164
Number of Grants approved	126	17	14	157
Total cost of approved improvements	£55,291	£9,224	£7,371	£71,886
Total amount of Grants approved.	£24,342	£4,078	£3,601	£32,021
Number of schemes completed	108	8	16	132
Number of applications withdrawn after approval	4	-	-	4

(7) HOUSING REPAIRS

The number of houses at which repairs were carried out following informal action under the Public Health and Housing Acts was ten. Formal action under the Public Health Act resulted in the repair of three other houses. Action was in most cases the result of complaints made to the Public Health Department by the occupiers concerned. No applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957 were received during the year.

No routine house-to-house inspection of dwelling houses has been carried out during the year.

(8) HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Housing Act 1961 and the Housing (Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation) Regulations 1962.

Recent legislation has given Local Authorities extensive powers to control the operation of houses which are let in lodgings or which are occupied by members of more than one family.

The number of houses multi-occupied in Chesham, although still comparatively small, continued to increase during the year, chiefly as a result of the arrival of more immigrants from Pakistan.

Fourteen houses have been surveyed by the Public Health Inspectors. It was found that facilities were available for the occupants on a reasonable scale and management standards were generally good.

One aspect which gave rise to concern was the risk of fire in the buildings and further attention will be given to the question of adequate means of escape, in co-operation with the County Fire Service Officers.

Among the difficulties met by Public Health Inspectors is that experienced in obtaining access to the houses at a time when the persons responsible are present. Prior notice of entry has usually to be given and it will be appreciated that should a landlord wish to mislead the Council's Officers as to the number of persons accommodated, the intimation of day and time of visits gives ample opportunity for this. As a result it is virtually impossible to keep a check on overcrowding, a feature which is often alleged to be present in lodging houses.

There are no registered common lodging houses in the district.



(9) COUNCIL HOUSING IN CHESHAM

During 1963 the Council rehoused 173 families, including 67 exchanges. Since 1946, Chesham Council have provided alternative housing accommodation for 2,132 families, and the following details of the number of new dwellings erected in the post-war period are of interest.

YEAR	HOUSE TYPES AND NUMBER				COUNCIL TOTALS	HOUSES ERECTED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE (including Housing Associations)
	Temporary Bungalows	Houses	Flats	O A.P. Bungalows and Flatlets		
1946/ 1950	35	186	36	-	257	85
1951/ 1955	-	233	86	40	359	239
1956/ 1960	-	126	129	-	255	1,131
1961/ 1962	-	42	20	-	62	472
1963	-	-	-	37	37	184
TOTALS	35	587	271	77	970	2,111

At the close of the year there were 12 dwellings under construction by the Council and 117 dwellings under private construction.

Housing Needs

The waiting list of applicants for Council accommodation, which is restricted to persons who reside or work in the town, numbered 400 in December 1963. This number compares with 376 applicants in the previous year. The 1963 figure includes 53 applications from elderly persons or couples.

(10) HOUSING FOR SPECIAL CLASSES - Elderly Persons Community Development, Deansway, Chesham.

This important example of co-operation between the County Council as Welfare Authority and Chesham Council as Housing Authority is now nearing completion. Mr. F. B. Pooley, F.R.I.B.A., the County Architect, was invited to prepare a joint scheme of development comprising a County Residential Home, under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, to accommodate 40 residents, together with ancillary services, in conjunction with a scheme of bungalow development for elderly persons for which Chesham Council is responsible. Details of this accommodation are as follows:-

(a) Six One-bedroom Bungalows for Two Persons  
Twenty-three Bedsitting Room Bungalows for Single Persons

All the above dwellings are self-contained, having their own bathrooms, toilets and kitchenettes. Hand showers are provided in the bedsitting room type, whilst double bedroom bungalows have small baths of the conventional type. All bathrooms are provided with special hand-rails to assist tenants. Kitchenettes have been provided with both gas/and electric

points in order that tenants may provide cookers of their own choice. The Eastern Gas Board have facilities for the provision and hire of specially designed cookers for elderly and handicapped persons. Fittings are provided under the covered porch of each bungalow for use in connection with a small clothes line. In addition, groups of rotary lines are available for each row of bungalows.

(b) Seven Bedsitter Community Flatlets

This accommodation is included in the Community Building. Each flatlet consists of a large bedsitting room, fitted with a cupboard kitchen. Two bathrooms and toilets are provided for the use of the seven tenants. A utility or laundry room and drying facilities are also provided in the building. These dwellings are specially designed for persons who, due to age or some disability are no longer able to be entirely responsible for a separate dwelling but who still wish to retain a home of their own.

(c) Additional Facilities -

Community Room

A spacious Community Room is provided for the use of all the tenants on the site. A kitchen and servery is also available. This has been especially designed to provide facilities which could be made available to any voluntary organisation willing to supply meals for elderly persons in the area generally. It is hoped that eventually the accommodation provided might serve as a social centre for the elderly.

Guest Room

A guest room has been provided in the Community Building, which will be available for use by relations and friends of tenants for holiday and emergency stays.

Central Heating

All dwellings and community rooms are centrally heated. Heating and hot water will be available for thirty-six weeks each year. During the summer months, water heating will be by electric immersion heaters. In addition, all dwellings are fitted with electric radiant fires and high level electric socket outlets.

Warning System

All dwellings are fitted with several emergency buttons for calling assistance. These are all connected to a control panel in the Warden's bungalow and to the Community Building.

Warden's Accommodation.

A two-bedroomed self-contained bungalow is provided for use by a resident Warden.

(11) CARAVAN SITES

Four Licenses under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 are in operation. All sites are occupied by single caravans only and the licenses are for limited periods. The conditions imposed by the Licenses, although based on the model standards are suitably modified to take account of the temporary nature of the sites.

An occupier of land in a residential area who, after failing to obtain the necessary planning permission, continued to station a caravan on the site was prosecuted for not holding a site licence under Section 1 of the Act. The Magistrates imposed a fine of £3 for the offence.

#### Council's Caravan Site - Trapps Lane

The Council's Caravan Site, Trapps Lane, which accommodates 46 caravans, has been fully occupied throughout the year.

The amenities provided at the site include an electricity supply point to each caravan, concrete standings and carriage way, a car park, fire and water points and a children's play-ground. In addition there is an ablution block containing a communal laundry with gas operated water heaters and wash boilers, together with baths, water closets and wash-hand basins.

The rent for each standing is 26s.6d. per week inclusive of all services, except electricity which is charged separately.

A comprehensive set of rules to secure the good management of the site forms part of the schedule to the licence granted to the occupiers of standings. A part-time warden is employed upon the site for general maintenance duties.

#### (12) RODENT CONTROL

##### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control activities have been maintained during the year. The numbers of infestations reported and treatments carried out were less than in the previous year. Seven informal notices were sent to occupiers of land or buildings requesting their action to deal with infestations of rats or mice.

Premises and land occupied by the Council have been regularly surveyed and a number of rat infestations have been treated.

#### Destruction of Rats in Sewers

Since the introduction of the use of Warfarin in the treatment of rats in sewers, the Council's sewers have been kept practically free from rats. Test baiting of approximately 10% of the manholes on the public sewers is, however, still carried out annually and any infestations discovered are treated immediately.

Test baiting in 1963 revealed only four minor infestations.



A summary of action taken during the year is given below:-

Rodent Control during 1963.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY			
	Local Auth- ority	Dwelling houses	Agri- cult- ural	All Other (including business)
No. of properties in District @ 31/3/63.	17	5,841	45	1,026
I. <u>Inspections</u> Number of properties inspected as a result of:				
(a) Notification	2	70	4	20
(b) Survey under the Act	14	1,262	35	452
(c) Reinspections	40	2	49	3
Total Inspections	56	1,334	88	475
II. <u>Infestations</u> Number of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by:				
(a) Rats	3	77	9	54
(b) Mice	-	17	2	8
Total Infestations	3	94	11	62
III Total Treatments (rats & mice) Number of infested properties treated (including re-treatments)	3	75	4	46
IV. Number of 'Block' Control Schemes carried out.	1			

(13) RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1961

The purpose of this Act is to ensure that rag, flock and other filling materials used in the manufacture of furniture, bedding, soft toys etc. are of a satisfactory standard of cleanliness. Where such articles are manufactured, the Act provides for registration of the premises. The premises of one upholsterer in Chesham are registered under the Act.

(14) PET ANIMALS ACT 1951.

This Act regulates the conditions in which pet animals are kept pending sale. It provides for the licensing of premises from which pet animals are sold and empowers a Local Authority to make conditions regarding the housing and care of the pets.

No person has been licensed to keep a pet shop during the year.

(15) KNACKER'S YARD

The Knacker's Yard situated at Broadnew Farm has been licensed by the Council during the year, but few animals have been slaughtered there.

The carcasses of 31 horses killed at farms or stables were brought to the Yard during the year

(16) BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1957  
Registration of Hairdressers and Barbers

Occupiers of 25 premises at which the business of hairdresser or barber is carried on are registered under Section 52 of the Buckinghamshire County Council Act, 1957.

Byelaws as to hairdressers and barbers came into operation on the 1st October, 1958. These byelaws make provision for securing the cleanliness of premises, of equipment used and of persons working on the premises.

(17) THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

The Council are responsible for enforcing certain provisions of the Factories Act relating to health, and annexed to this report are tables giving particulars of the visits made to factories by Public Health Inspectors and the cases in which defects were found.

Plans of new factories are examined in the Public Health Department and appropriate comments are passed to the Architects concerned with a view to ensuring that sanitary conveniences and other provisions as to health meet with the statutory requirements.

The principal industries in which local factories are engaged are indicated by the list below.

Factories with Power

Woodware and Joinery	13
Motor-vehicle repairs	9
Brushware	5
Boot Manufacture	2
Light Engineering	18
Clothing and Textiles	3
Printers	4
Food Manufacture and Packing	5
Upholstery	2
Aircraft Seats	3
Other Industries	28
	<u>92</u>
Building Operations	4

Factories (No Mechanical Power)

Stone Mason	1
Packing	2
	<u>3</u>



### Outworkers

Under Section 133 of the Factories Act, 1961, the occupier of every factory employing outworkers in certain specified classes of work must send to the District Council during the months of February and August of each year a list showing all the outworkers employed by him during the previous six months. A table showing the persons employed as outworkers in the specified trades in Chesham is annexed to the report.

### (18) SHOPS ACT 1950

The Council is responsible for the enforcement of certain provisions of the Shops Act 1950 relating to sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature in shops.

The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act received Royal Assent on the 31st July, 1963. It will come into operation on a date to be appointed by the Minister, and indications at the end of the year are that the 1st May, 1964 will be the effective date.

Amongst other matters, the Act will give greater powers to local Authorities in respect of health, safety and welfare provisions for employees.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF GOOD

(1) MILK

The Milk & Dairies Regulations

Since 1949, the duties of Local Authorities have been concerned mainly with the enforcement of provisions relating to the distribution of milk and its handling and treatment at premises other than dairy farms. The provisions with regard to the infection of milk with diseases communicable to man are also the responsibility of Local Authorities.

Four milk distributors and one dairy are registered in the Urban District. There are a small number of milk producers within the area including one producer/retailer.

Milk supplies are sampled regularly by Officers of the Bucks. County Council and tested for both compositional and bacteriological quality.

Six washed milk bottles in one batch were taken from the local dairy for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory service. The milk bottles satisfied the tests, indicating efficient cleansing at the dairy.

(2) ICE CREAM

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and the ice-cream sold from the shops is of the pre-packed variety supplied by large firms distributing on a national scale. Following recent developments in the industry a number of vehicles trading in the District have been equipped to supply soft ice-cream from continuous freezers.

Five samples of ice-cream were collected from shops and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The grading of all samples was satisfactory.

(3) NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES BY TYPES

General Grocery and Green Grocery Shops...	...	51
Butchers' Shops	... ..	13
Wet Fish Shops	... ..	2
Fish Frying Premises	... ..	3
Bakers...	... ..	2
Confectionery	... ..	15
Restaurants	... ..	8
Food manufacturing premises	..	2
Dairies	... ..	1
Factory and Shop Canteens	... ..	9
School Kitchens	... ..	5
School Dining Centres	..	6
Licensed Premises	... ..	23
Food Warehouses...	... ..	2
Clubs and Public Halls..	... ..	11
		<hr/>
		153
		<hr/>

NOTE: Premises at which more than one type of business is carried on are counted once only.

(4) REGISTRATION OF PREMISES USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE, STORAGE OR SALE OF FOOD UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Purpose for which Registered.	Premises on Register 1962	Added to Register 1963	Removed from Register 1963	Total on Register 31.12.63.	Visits in 1963
Sale and Storage of ice-cream	55	2	-	57	} 9
Manufacture of ice-cream	4	-	-	4	
Manufacture of Preserved Food etc.	19	-	-	19	11
Fish Frying	4	-	-	4	4
TOTALS	82	2	-	84	24

(5) SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Since September 1959 no slaughtering has taken place in Chesham. The few local butchers wishing to buy meat "on the hoof" now make use of the slaughtering facilities available at a privately-operated slaughterhouse at Chalfont St. Giles.

Slaughter of Animals Acts 1933 to 1954

The following details are extracted from the Register of Slaughtermen:-

Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1962	-	6.
Applications for Licences considered during 1963	-	3.
Applications for Renewals considered during 1963	-	5.

Number of Slaughtermen removed from Register (no applications for renewal of licences)	-	1.
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Number of Slaughtermen on Register at 31st December, 1963	-	5.
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(6) FOOD HYGIENE

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

Enforcement of the above Regulations in food shops and other places where food is manufactured or handled in businesses has continued to occupy a large proportion of the time available to the Public Health Inspectors. During the course of 168 visits made by the Inspectors, numerous and varied infringements of the Regulations were found and on 23 separate occasions written notices were served on the persons responsible.

In June 1963 proceedings were taken against the occupier of a new butcher's shop for failing to provide a supply of hot water at a sink used for the washing of food and equipment in accordance with Regulation 19(1)(b). Full information concerning the regulations had been supplied to the butcher when the shop was opened in February and reminders had been sent on subsequent occasions. The Magistrates imposed a fine of £10 for the offence.

Catering Hygiene - Examination of Utensil Swabs

During the year utensil swabbing was carried out in nine catering premises and the following items of equipment were tested:-

ITEMS	NUMBER OF SWABS
Cups	43
Forks	22
Plates	35
Glasses	7
Soup Plates	7
Beakers	11
Spoon	1
Ladle	1
TOTAL	127

The bacteriological reports on the swabs are summarised below:-

BACTERIAL COUNT	ITEMS
Less than 100 colonies per utensil	63
100 to 200 colonies per utensil	13
200 to 300 "	4
300 to 500 "	12
500 to 1,000 "	5
Over 1000 colonies per utensil	30
TOTAL	127

Sixteen of the swabs shewed evidence of faecal coli.

Although there is no bacteriological standard for crockery and utensils, it is generally accepted by Public Health Departments that to be regarded as satisfactory a utensil should have not more than 100 colonies. In every case where unsatisfactory results were obtained advice on the introduction of more efficient means of washing-up was given to the persons responsible for the businesses. In most premises because of the limited accommodation and facilities available, the use of a detergent having germicidal properties was recommended. When germicidal detergents were introduced into the washing up water, repeat testing of crockery showed improved results.

During the examination of swabs from utensils at two school dining-centres, the Laboratory reported extremely high bacteriological counts on plastic drinking beakers. The cleansability of these articles would appear to be extremely poor, particularly after some use, and following representation made to the Education Authorities, these plastic drinking vessels were withdrawn and replaced by metal beakers.

#### General Comment

Since the Regulations were introduced in 1956, every attempt has been made to make the occupiers of food premises and other persons engaged in the



handling of food fully aware of their food hygiene responsibilities.

At the beginning, all food premises were supplied with a booklet explaining the Regulations and similar information is given when new businesses are started. Many hours have been spent by Public Health Inspectors in endeavouring to interest members of the food trade in food hygiene which, after all, is an essential part of their business under present-day standards. Unfortunately, in many instances, these activities have been resented by the persons concerned and only under threat of prosecution has any improvement been made.

Unless health education can make a better impact on the practice of food hygiene than has so far been evident, the public will continue to rely on the enforcement of legal standards. Where persuasion fails, the Council's policy may have to be re-considered with more emphasis given to enforcement through proceedings in the Courts.

### Certificates of Exemption

Certificates granting exemption from certain specified requirements of the Regulations have operated in respect of sixteen premises during the year. The Certificates exempt the occupiers of a number of small shops from the regulation requiring the provision of separate sinks and hot water for the washing of food and equipment. In granting the Certificates the Council had regard to the nature of the food handled, mainly fruit, vegetables or confectionery, and the limited equipment used upon the premises.

### (7) INSPECTION OF FOOD

A few complaints alleging the sale of unsound food have been investigated by the Public Health Inspectors, but no formal action has been necessary. Reports of food stuffs containing extraneous material are passed to the Chief Inspector of the Bucks County Council for investigation.

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered to the Department by traders during the year:-

				<u>Weight</u>		
				<u>Tons</u>	<u>cwts</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Corned Beef....	....	....	....	-	-	50
Beef	....	....	....	-	-	14
Pork Luncheon Meat	....	....	....	-	-	11½
Ham....	....	....	....	-	-	95
Gammon	....	....	....	-	-	15
Jellied Veal...	....	....	....	-	-	12
Lambs Hearts...	....	....	....	-	-	10
				-	1	95½

### Tinned Foods

9 tins Meat  
16 tins Vegetables  
9 tins Fish  
9 tins Fruit  
4 tins Evaporated Milk  
1 tin Creamed Rice  
1 tin Orange Juice

Miscellaneous

269 Assorted Ice-Creams  
24 packets assorted Soup Mixes

Frozen Packets of Food

20 packets Chicken  
43 packets Meat  
20 packets Fish  
159 packets Vegetables  
1 packet Fruit  
9 packets Pastry

Disposal of Condemned Foodstuffs

Condemned foodstuffs are destroyed by incineration at the Council's plant in Latimer Road, Chesham.

(8) WATERCRESS

During 1962 and the early part of 1963, the Department assisted the Public Health Laboratory Service in their co-operation with an official Working Party investigating the bacteriological purity of watercress and of water which supplies the beds in which it is grown. A total of 99 samples of water, 48 samples of cress and 34 samples of soil from watercress beds was collected from three of the principal cressbeds in the Urban District and delivered to the Laboratory at Luton during this period.

At the present time, there is no standard for the bacteriological quality of water in watercress beds or of watercress, but most authorities on the subject suggest that the quality of the water feeding cressbeds should be comparable with water used for drinking purposes. With one or two exceptions, the quality of water at the sources supplying water to the local cress beds was found to be of excellent quality.

R. E. ATKINSON  
Medical Officer of Health  
L. D. SATURLEY  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

ANNEX to Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1963  
for the Urban District of Chesham in the County of Buckingham

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

PART I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with no mechanical power)	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (Factories with mechanical power)	92	19	3	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority(excluding outworkers' premises) (e.g. Building Sites)	4	-	-	-
TOTAL	99	19	3	-

# CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector
Want of cleanness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors(S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	1	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	1	-	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133		Section 134				Prosecutions
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)		
(1)		(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	
Wearing Apparel } Making etc. Cleaning and Washing.	16	-	-	-	-	-	-
Curtains and furniture hangings	39	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brush making	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	56	-	-	-	-	-	-

